

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An interface card with power supply and connected to a host, the interface card comprising:
 - 5 a power module; and
 - a power charging module;wherein the power module provides electrical power to the host when the host power supply functions incorrectly and the power module is recharged via the power charging module by a power supply module of the host when the power
10 module is low in capacity.
2. The interface card of claim 1, wherein the connection between the interface card and the host uses an ISA bus.
3. The interface card of claim 1, wherein the connection between the interface card and the host uses a PCI bus.
- 15 4. The interface card of claim 1 further comprising a control module for detecting the power module and an external power source state connected to the power charging module and for sending a warning message to the host when the power module and the external power source state are found to be abnormal.
5. The interface card of claim 1 further comprising a host power connecting module
20 to transfer power to the host.
6. A computer system with backup power, comprising:
 - a host; and

an interface card with power supply;

wherein the interface card connects to the host via a bus and provides power to the host when the power supply of the host functions incorrectly.

5 7. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the interface card further includes a power module for supplying power to the host when the power supply of the host functions incorrectly.

8. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the interface card further includes a power charging module for receive power from a power supply module of the host when the power module is low in capacity.

10 9. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the interface card further includes a control module for detecting the power states of the interface card and the host and for sending a warning message to the host when the power states are found to be abnormal.

10. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the interface card is connected to the host via an ISA bus.

15 11. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the interface card is connected to the host via a PCI bus.

20 12. A method for providing backup power used in a computer system that contains an interface card with power supply, a host for the interface card to plug in, and a power supply module for supplying power to the host and the interface card, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) supplying power from the power supply module to the interface card when the power of the interface card is detected to be insufficient;

(b) supplying power from the interface card to the host when the host power supply is detected to be abnormal and controlling the computer system to

automatically save data and its current state; and

(c) shutting down the computer system once the data are all saved.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein step (c) is followed by the step of returning the computer system to its saved state when it is restarted.

5 14. The method of claim 12, wherein step (a) is preceded by the step of checking whether the interface card functions normally.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein step (a) is preceded by the step of sending a warning message to the computer system when the interface card is detected to function abnormally.

10 16. The method of claim 12, wherein step (a) includes the step of sending a warning message to the computer system.